

# Building upon the Past while Shaping the Future: Columbia’s New Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

By Professor Farah Jasmine Griffin, first chair of the newly formed African American and African Diaspora Studies Department at Columbia University



Pictured left to right, top to bottom: Josef Sorett, Robert Gooding-Williams, Mignon Moore, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Frank Guridy, Steven Gregory, Obery Hendricks; Marcellus Blount, Carla Shedd, Saidiya Hartman, Samuel Roberts, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Steven Gregory, Obery Hendricks, Josef Sorett, Diedra Harris-Kelley; Frank Guridy; Kevin Fellezs; Farah Jasmine Griffin; Josef Sorett, Mabel Wilson; C. Daniel Dawson, Abdul Nanji; Mignon Moore, Christine Pinnock, Natasha Lightfoot, Carl Hart, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Josef Sorett, Obery Hendricks, Steven Gregory; Obery Hendricks, Carl Hart; Robert Gooding-Williams; Kellie Jones

The creation of the new African American and African Diaspora Studies Department at Columbia marks an important development in the history of the field at the University and beyond. The department builds upon existing strengths—including a vibrant and productive faculty, field-defining research, and exciting, informative programming—while providing a unique opportunity to produce new knowledge, strengthen existing relationships with the surrounding community, and create new ones globally.

Throughout Columbia’s history, scholars—such as anthropologist Franz Boas, his graduate student Zora Neale Hurston, and decades later the esteemed political scientist Charles Hamilton and others—contributed to the

development of African American and African Diaspora Studies while also informing and transforming more traditional academic disciplines. By the late 1960s, as was the case throughout the United States, the University strengthened course offerings in the field following student protests. In 1993, faculty already engaged in the field recruited the late Manning Marable to establish the Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS). The founding of IRAAS was a major step toward strengthening the University’s relationship to its neighboring community and increasing its presence in the field. Professor Marable firmly established Columbia as a leading center in the study of black political thought and socially engaged scholarship. IRAAS’s explicit focus on the

black experience in Harlem and other parts of New York gave, and continues to give, Columbia’s African American studies its distinctive urban vision.

The new Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies takes IRAAS’s strong foundation of scholarship and teaching on the African Diaspora, urbanism, political and religious thought, cultural studies, and critically engaged research in new and exciting directions. Our faculty publishes across several disciplines that speak to audiences both within and outside of the University. Given this rich and diverse background—along with the ongoing production of award-winning scholarship, innovative teaching, and impactful programming—our faculty trains students to

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## Columbia and Harlem Wellness Centers Form Partnership Creating Community Spaces around Wellness

By Nohemy Aguirre



Zumba instructor, Mary, from the Harlem Wellness Center with Zumba class attendees.

Columbia University’s Wellness Center serves as a hub for members of the community to take advantage of free point-of-care services like blood pressure and cholesterol screenings. Other services include an open referral system, as well as assistance in health insurance enrollment with the New York State of Health marketplace by certified application counselors.

The Columbia Wellness Center is focused on becoming a community space where individuals from West Harlem and beyond can create and engage in positive experiences surrounding the topic of health and wellness.

To support this effort, the Columbia Wellness Center sought to develop partnerships and, in Fall 2018, Center staff met with Vivian Williams-Kurutz, the founder and executive director of the Harlem Wellness Center and a Columbia Community Scholar. Around that same time, Williams-Kurutz spoke at the Columbia University’s Community Scholars Dialogue on health and wellness, where she gave an empowering presentation on the health disparities African American women face in today’s society. Williams-Kurutz is known for her creative approach toward community organizing and her enormous zeal toward facilitating public engagement in the Harlem wellness community. Shortly after the meeting, a partnership was formed that was beneficial to both organizations and, more importantly, to the West Harlem community.

The first collaboration was a free community chair exercise workshop, piggybacking off the Education Lab’s

Saturday Science theme, “Let’s Move It,” in December 2018. The goal was to design a recreational program that was suitable for all ages and focused on disseminating wellness information in an organic and effortless fashion. Williams-Kurutz, with a long history of yoga instruction, led five 20-minute chair exercise classes, where she guided more than 60 participants through a series of movements promoting strength, flexibility, and vitality.

Working off the success of the first event, and following a similar collaboration, Columbia University’s Wellness Center hosted another complimentary wellness workshop for community residents to attend in March 2019. This time the workshop was led by Harlem Wellness Center’s Zumba instructors, Mary and Marlene, who were successful in engaging everyone’s participation. More than 55 visitors participated in five 20-minute Zumba sessions.

The Columbia Wellness Center and Harlem Wellness Center look forward to increasing opportunities for programming in the future. The partnership that has bloomed attests to the African proverb that goes, “Alone you can go fast, but together you can go far.”



# In the Know

## Remembering Peter Awn



Peter Awn

Peter Awn, Dean Emeritus of Columbia's School of General Studies, passed away earlier this year. His loss has been felt not just on the Columbia campus, but throughout our community. Always a champion of nontraditional students and scholars, Peter was an early and stalwart supporter of the Columbia Community Scholars Program, having been involved as an important adviser both during the program's development and throughout its existence.

The following is excerpted from a message sent from Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger to the Columbia community.

Since his arrival on the Columbia campus more than four decades ago, no one has been a more beloved member of our community than Peter. The grief we feel at his loss is overwhelming. This heartbreak is especially palpable for the General Studies community where, during his 20-year tenure as Dean, Peter came to personify the School's character, its values, and its mission. In every way that mattered, he and the School were one. This unmatched legacy, in addition to his remarkable scholarship and teaching as Professor of Islamic and Comparative Religion, made Peter, without question, one of the essential leaders of Columbia University's modern era.

The rare gift he was able to bestow upon generations of General Studies students was his unconditional belief that Columbia was better for their presence and his insistence that they believe this as fervently as he did. Peter recognized that General Studies represented the "cutting edge of undergraduate education," as he put it, and under his stewardship the School has been able to fulfill its promise. For him, that meant a student body comprised heavily of student veterans, first-generation students, and international students, whose age and life experiences would further diversify and enrich our undergraduate classrooms. . . .

Peter will always remain in Columbia's heart.

## Nabila El-Bassel Named University Professor



Nabila El-Bassel

President Lee C. Bollinger announced the appointment of Nabila El-Bassel, the Willma and Albert Musher Professor of Social Work, to the rank of University Professor, Columbia University's highest academic honor.

Professor El-Bassel is a leader in the fields of global public health and social work, dedicating her career to improving the lives of people who have too often been overlooked or neglected. A leading figure in intervention science for the prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS, Professor El-Bassel is known for her work explicitly targeting couples, enabling them to practice safer sex, reduce HIV, and resolve conflicts without violence. She is director of the Social Intervention Group, which was established in 1990 as a multidisciplinary center focused on developing and testing prevention and intervention approaches for HIV, drug use, and gender-based violence, and disseminating them to local, national, and global communities. She is also director of the Columbia University Global Health Research Center of Central Asia—a team of faculty, scientists, researchers, and students in New York and Central Asia committed to advancing solutions to health and social issues in Central Asia through research, education, training, policy, and dissemination. She is also leading community and system-based research to address the opioid epidemic in New York State.

In an announcement to the University community, President Bollinger remarked: "A University Professor appointment is a rare and distinguished honor among our faculty. Not only does it signify scholarly merit of the highest caliber, it also designates the recipient as a professor of the entire University who can teach across schools and departments. Professor El-Bassel has devoted her career to the pursuit of knowledge and innovation that can strengthen communities and improve the human condition. She has established social work as a recognized profession in countries where it previously did not exist and has mentored generations of new researchers in a field that has had a transformative effect on the lives of at-risk populations. She richly deserves this honor—please join me in congratulating her."

## ICAP Founder Wafaa El-Sadr Inducted as Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences



Wafaa El-Sadr

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) inducted ICAP founder and global director Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA, as a Fellow at its 11th General Assembly Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa. ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health (formerly the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs) supports programs and research that address HIV/AIDS and related conditions and works to strengthen health systems. ICAP currently supports HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs in 30 countries, 19 of which are African.

According to AAS, "Fellows are elected from among active African scientists residing in Africa or elsewhere and who have attained the highest international standards and/or who have made significant contributions to the development and application of science, technology and innovation in Africa."

A total of 120 Fellows and Associate Fellows elected in 2016, 2017, and 2018 were inducted this year, along with 72 distinguished senior and early career scientists from across the globe who joined as AAS Affiliates. Ten Honorary Fellows were lauded for their significant contributions to the objectives of the Academy.

"It is truly an honor to join this group of distinguished AAS Fellows," Dr. El-Sadr said. "This Academy is distinguished by bringing together individuals from diverse disciplines all engaged in contributing to the growth and development of the great African continent."

## John Coatsworth to Step Down as Provost



John Coatsworth

The following is an excerpt from a message sent from Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger to the Columbia community:

John Coatsworth will be stepping down as Provost of the University on June 30, 2019. A renowned scholar of Latin American economic and international history, John will remain a professor of International and Public Affairs and of History and, happily for all of us, he will return to his scholarship and teaching full time. In his remarkably successful eight-year tenure as Provost, John has strengthened the Office of the Provost and this University in every meaningful way. For many years to come, the University will appreciate his steady efforts to elevate and modernize our teaching and research capabilities, always with a thoughtfulness, rigor, and a characteristic warmth.

As Provost, John has overseen some of the most complex and consequential institutional developments in Columbia's recent history. He expanded our efforts across the entire University to diversify our faculty, managing the nearly \$200 million that we have invested in recruitment, career development, and pipeline initiatives. Under his leadership, Columbia developed more effective faculty search protocols to promote the hiring of underrepresented minorities and to increase the resources available to them as junior faculty. John also created the Center for Teaching and Learning, which offers faculty and graduate students innovative professional development opportunities that are essential for pedagogical success, and launched the President's Global Innovation Fund, providing faculty access to Columbia's network of Global Centers for their research and teaching.

John has, since first joining Columbia as a visiting professor in 2006 in the Department of History and at SIPA, been a dedicated and steadfast citizen of this University. Notably, after his appointment as Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs in 2007, he led SIPA through the enormous task of becoming a fully self-governing unit of the University. He also managed a comprehensive review and restructuring of SIPA's curriculum, while modernizing and expanding its capital campaign and alumni engagement.

### THE COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER

309 Low Library, 535 W. 116th St., MC 4319, New York, NY 10027

*The Columbia Newsletter* is published by the Office of Government and Community Affairs.

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To receive a copy of *The Columbia Newsletter*, contact the Office of Government and Community Affairs at 212-854-0684 or send an email to [communityaffairs@columbia.edu](mailto:communityaffairs@columbia.edu).

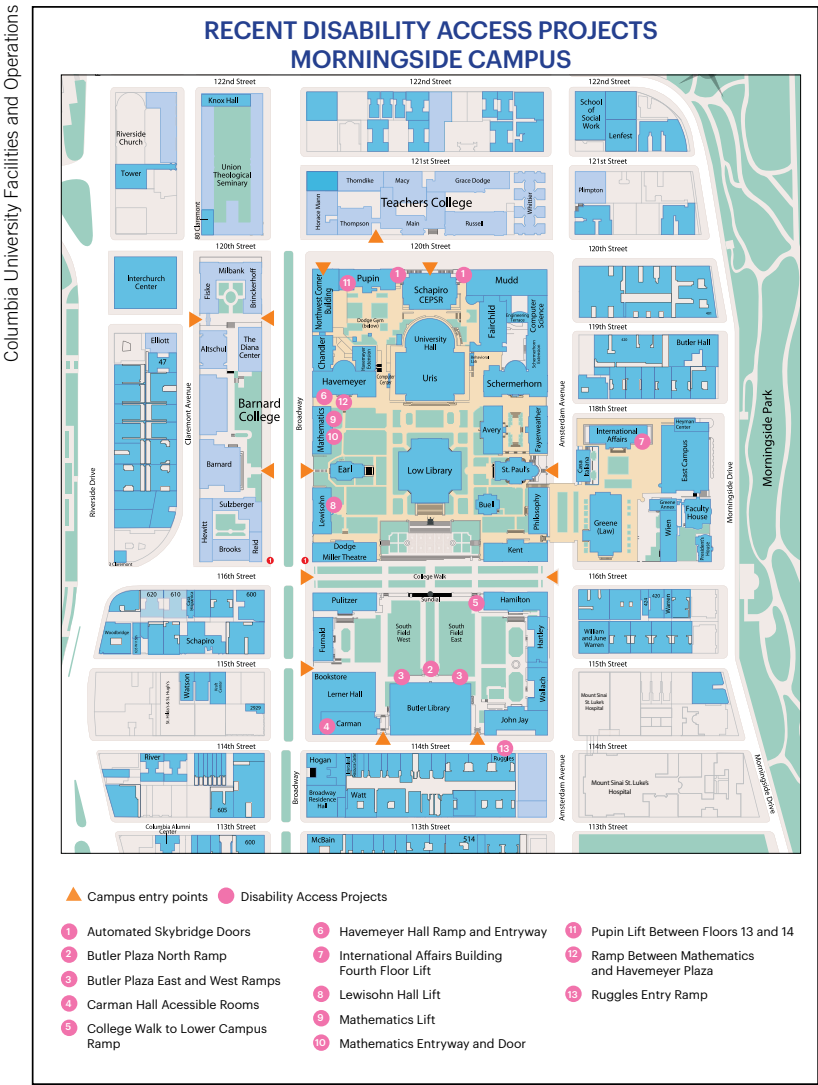


Please Recycle



# Disability Access Is Improving across Morningside Campus

By Georgette Jasen and Noah Lichtman



Map of Disability Access Projects on campus

Until recently, someone in a wheelchair or with limited mobility trying to enter Havemeyer Hall had to detour through the Northwest Corner Building 300 yards to the north, take an elevator to the ninth floor, and then follow a 200-foot walkway through Chandler Hall to arrive, at last, at Havemeyer. Whew.

As of this March, a newly installed ramp leads to an accessible entrance 30 feet west of the building’s main door, making this labyrinthine route a thing of the past. It is the University’s latest disability access project, part of a multiyear initiative to adapt the Beaux Arts campus of the 20th century to the accessibility needs of the 21st.

“Too often obscured within the beauty of Columbia’s historic Morningside campus is the inherent challenge of accessing buildings constructed a century ago, along with navigating the change in elevation of the terrain between 114th and 120th Streets,” said David M. Greenberg, the executive vice president of Facilities and Operations. “We are committed to continuing to address those challenges as we improve accessibility across campus.”

Over the past six years, the University has undertaken a steady number of projects to that end. One of the most visible was the 2017 restoration of Butler Plaza, which created sloping pathways to the library’s main entrance and an entrance ramp and stairs between Butler Lawn and the plaza. The project also added benches along the lawn’s perimeter, new lighting, technical infrastructure for Wi-Fi on the South Lawn, and improved drainage.

Last summer, the lawn between the Mathematics building and Havemeyer Plaza was dug up, and a step-

free pathway with brick pavers and granite curbing consistent with campus architecture was created. The project included enhanced lighting and Wi-Fi access, and preserved the oldest tree on campus—a sycamore more than 120 years old in front of Mathematics.

“With exterior projects like the Mathematics pathway, the Butler Plaza project, and a masonry ramp adjacent to Hamilton connecting College Walk to lower campus, we are able to maintain—and even enhance—the historic character of the campus design while substantially improving disability access,” said Greenberg.

The improvements are inside and out. Last spring, a new wheelchair lift at the Mathematics building connected the campus-level vestibule to the third floor, providing direct access to the elevators. The building’s historic entry doors also have been retrofitted with an accessible push panel for opening. On the other side of Amsterdam Avenue, a new lift now connects the street-level lobby of the International Affairs Building on 118th Street to the atrium level, which houses student lounges and an auditorium. Before the lift was installed, building visitors with limited mobility had to take a circuitous route or navigate seven steps to get from one area to the other.

Since 2013, approximately 50 restrooms in 40 buildings have been upgraded or converted to provide disability access.

The wheelchair lift in Lewisohn Hall was replaced; and accessible dorm rooms, some with private bathrooms, have been created across campus.

Other projects included the installation of automated doors at building entrances and along accessible routes within them, way-finding signage, classroom upgrades, and improvements to some outdoor ramps. An email alert system now warns of outages and other events that affect disability access.

And within the last year, a limited-use elevator was installed in Pupin Hall between the building’s top two floors, providing access to events and departmental offices on the 14th floor—the hub of Astronomy Department activity.

The new Havemeyer ramp could inform future designs for the remaining McKim, Mead & White buildings on campus. Future projects will focus on improving accessibility outdoors across campus, such as between College Walk and Low Plaza; adding more accessible rooms and features in undergraduate residence halls; and improving entryway access to other buildings. Many of those projects require feasibility, design, and engineering studies before construction can begin.

“It’s encouraging to see Columbia create long-lasting, permanent physical changes to improve disability access on campus,” said Gordon Slater (SOA’19), the University Senate representative for the School of the Arts, who uses a wheelchair. “The University needs these kinds of structural changes in order to build a more diverse community.”

*This article originally appeared in the Spring 2019 issue of The Record, produced by Columbia News.*

# Columbia University Awards Contract to 125th Street BID

By Phoebe-Sade Arnold



Harlem Holiday Lights Celebration

With increased activity taking place on the Manhattanville campus and streetscape improvement work nearing completion, Columbia University sought a partner that would support maintenance services along 125th Street. The Harlem 125th Business Improvement District (BID) was officially awarded the contract in late spring to maintain the perimeter of the Manhattanville campus. The contract will go into effect once the corridor has officially been placed under Columbia’s jurisdiction.

Started in 1993, the BID was created to promote economic development and improve the quality of life along the historic 125th Street corridor, while simultaneously protecting its unique cultural heritage. It currently covers all properties that face 125th Street between Morningside Avenue and Fifth Avenue, including certain businesses located on side streets.

The newly awarded contract would extend the 125th Street BID services from Morningside Avenue to 12th Avenue. Founder and President Barbara Askins remarked, “We are very excited about this new partnership with Columbia as it is presents a great opportunity to provide services and take a closer look at the feasibility of expanding west of Morningside Avenue.”

While the announcement of the contract is a special marker in the partnership between the 125th Street BID and Columbia University, it is not the first example of such collaboration. For many years, Columbia has been a proud sponsor of the BID’s Harlem Holiday Lights Celebration. Intended to celebrate the start of the holiday season, this multipronged event includes in-store and sidewalk activities (face painting, ugly sweater Christmas contest, karaoke, etc.) hosted by community groups and merchants. At nightfall, a Parade of Lights begins where various entertainment acts and floats (chartered by local sponsoring organizations) glide along the 125th Street corridor from Fifth Avenue to Marginal Street. The 2018 parade grand marshal was Harlem’s own Dapper Dan.

Keeping in line with its mission to promote economic development, the BID also serves as a case study for a capstone course in Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs. Led by Adjunct Senior Research Scholar in the Faculty of International and Public Affairs Seth Pinsky, the course is currently examining what strategic interventions can enhance 125th Street as a key Manhattan retail and entertainment destination.

Through strategic programming like its Harlem Healthy and Clean campaign, Holiday Lights Celebration, Public Safety program, banner sponsorship initiative, networking receptions, and more, the BID has established itself as a stable force in the ever-changing landscape of Harlem.

For more information on the Harlem 125th Street BID, download the Harlem Happenings app, or visit <https://www.125thstreet.nyc/>.

# African American and African Diaspora continued from page 1

engage in and shape contemporary intellectual conversations and debates about the study of the African Diaspora, as well as address always important policy concerns regarding neoliberalism, housing, education, criminal justice, health, and other pressing issues. Our proximity to and long-standing relationship with the historic community of Harlem provides a wealth of opportunities for students and faculty to pursue these interests in partnership with neighboring institutions. In addition, the history, culture, institutions, and people of Harlem continue to inform, ignite, and inspire an important creative and intellectual relationship that benefits all of us.

We anticipate bringing new faculty who build upon existing strengths and expand our course offerings on subject matter outside the national boundaries of the United States. In addition, through collaborative projects with existing community partners and newly created ones in Latin America, the Caribbean, and South Africa (to name a few potential sites), we hope to extend the work we do both within and far beyond the walls of the University.

At this time in the history of our University, our community, our nation, and indeed the very planet upon which we live, the new African American and African Diaspora Studies Department plays a vital role in training students to be engaged and informed global citizens, conducting research that helps foster a greater understanding of the challenges that confront us, and building and sustaining strong community ties both within and outside the gates of Columbia University.



# A Collaborative Response to Local Youth Facing Disconnection

By Henry Danner

Bashar Makhyar



CYI staff with youth and staff from the Isaacs Center, a CYI partner organization that refers job-ready candidates with hopes of securing positions at Columbia to CYI



Living Redemption Youth Opportunity Hub

Program members participate in a narrative therapy session led by one of LRYOH's credible messengers mentors, Jason Davis

Disconnected youth, more appropriately known as “opportunity youth,” are a unique population with a unique set of needs to match. By definition, opportunity youth are 16–24 year olds who are neither in school nor working. Classifying this special group using the term “disconnected” may lead one to believe that these young people are off the grid, hard to find, and completely lacking linkages to resources. Contrary to this belief, youth dealing with disconnection are actually—and at times unknowingly—connected to supports through varying degrees of separation. The term “disengaged” would more accurately describe these young people, and when the right strategy is employed, the chances of reengaging them increase greatly.

According to a Measure of America (MOA) report, “More Than a Million Reasons for Hope,” in 2016, opportunity youth accounted for 11.7 percent of the U.S. population (roughly 4.6 million youth). In comparison to the national disconnection rate, the state of New York has a 12.1 percent rate—about 289,000 young people. More locally, the NYC metro area is home to 274,900 opportunity youth, contributing to an 11.8 percent disconnection rate.

Local high school graduation rates are a strong indicator for potential disconnection. According to the NY State Education Department, the 2018 high school graduation rate in District 3 (Upper West Side and part of Harlem) was 75 percent. Out of the 2,247 total students in the 2018 cohort, 558 did not graduate and 132 have been declared dropouts. Many of the students who did not graduate in 2018 are still enrolled in a district school, but may be labeled truant or severely

chronically absent, which places them in grave danger of falling behind in credits, aging out of the school system, and ultimately becoming disconnected.

Although there are many ways youth disconnection has been addressed, the one that looks the most promising on the local front is a collaboration among like-minded organizations that fall within the degrees of separation that opportunity youth experience. This can be analyzed through the lens of a recently developed and growing partnership between the Columbia University Office of Government and Community Affairs’ Connecting Youth Initiative (CYI) and the Living Redemption Youth Opportunity Hub (LRYOH).

CYI is a community and school-based service that provides outreach and supportive case management to opportunity youth in Northern Manhattan and portions of the South Bronx. It evolved from the “outreach to disconnected youth” commitment stipulated in the package of benefits and amenities associated with Columbia University’s “Manhattanville Campus Expansion” project. CYI participants are supported with services and opportunities for reengagement in educational and employment programs.

LRYOH is a youth development organization that serves youth 10–24 years old by creating unique programming for local youth and young adults. It is one of the more recent partnerships CYI has made in order to address the need for more intentional programming for opportunity youth in the local community. The extensive attention given to bringing in resources shows that LRYOH’s administrators understand the importance of collaboration and strategic partnership to addressing

issues plaguing local youth. Rhoekisha Ford, assistant director of LRYOH, stressed the importance of bringing in partners that can focus on specific needs.

“Partnerships are essential because they provide an opportunity for people to work within their expertise,” said Ford. “When you find a partner that has a lens that zooms in on something specific, there is a higher likelihood of success.”

When taking a team approach to a social issue such as youth disconnection, creating the linkage of services is only one step in a successful collaborative problem-solving process. Engagement and rapport building with both the youth and service providers are key activities that result in effective service delivery. With the CYI and LRYOH partnership, on-site participation is the means by which this is done.

“Having Connecting Youth Initiative staff be a part of that relationship-building with the team and the participants sends a strong message,” said Ford.

As the two organizations look ahead to the future, they will work to demonstrate how collaboration can be beneficial to reducing the number of youth impacted by disconnection. Relying on a strategy that is goal driven, they seek to achieve outcomes that, as Ford stated, give their program participants a “heightened sense of importance.” By exposing local opportunity youth to the variety of organizations working together in their favor, CYI and LRYOH are striving to show “disconnected” youth how well-connected they truly are.

Learn more at <https://gca.columbia.edu/CYI>.

## Community Hearing Health Collaborative for Children

By Margaret Barrows

NewYork-Presbyterian



Sarah Cordero, pediatric community health worker, accompanied by the parent of a child in the CHW program receiving a certificate of completion

Working with the Center for Community Health Navigation at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Anil Lalwani and others have built a partnership to assist families of newborns and infants diagnosed with hearing loss in the Bronx and Northern Manhattan. That program, the Community Hearing Health Collaborative to Meet the Needs of Children with Hearing

the community health workers can both work to broadly identify barriers to treatment of childhood hearing loss and help families overcome some of those barriers.

Additionally, the Community Hearing Health Collaborative includes an audiologist, a speech specialist, a pediatric education specialist, and an otolaryngologist, as well as liaisons with a pediatric development specialist, an

Impairment, was recently awarded a three-year, \$875,000 grant by the Oberkottor Foundation.

After being given comprehensive training in childhood hearing health—including child development, education, and rehabilitation—bilingual community health workers from the Center for Community Health Navigation are able to support these families by connecting them to medical, educational, and social resources to help them realize their child’s full potential. In this role as a bridge between families and clinical and social services,

infant hearing screening program, and the leadership of the postpartum unit at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. This last connection especially enables the Community Hearing Health Collaborative to work effectively toward its mission, as early intervention and connecting families with support as soon as a child fails a hearing test are key to ensuring that the family and child stay engaged with the health system.

While currently serving approximately 20 children through the work of two community health workers, leaders hope to expand the program in the near future with one more community health worker, as well as a clinical coordinator, so that they can serve as a resource for the entire Bronx area.

Sarah Cordero, a community health worker with the program, says it has been “an educational and rewarding experience. With the support of the Audiology Department, we empower and inform families on how to navigate the healthcare system and find beneficial resources within their communities. The families we’ve assisted have been so welcoming, open minded, and engaged, which makes us extremely pleased and proud that our families have a good experience connecting with the healthcare system, and the barriers that once made it difficult for families to get medical attention are no longer an issue.”

Families in the program are followed from the original referral to the child’s successful entry into prekindergarten.

For more information about the Community Hearing Health Collaborative, please contact Dr. Anil Lalwani at [anil.lalwani@columbia.edu](mailto:anil.lalwani@columbia.edu) or 212-305-3319.



# In the Mix



Office of Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez



Hasan Makky



Columbia Community Service



Cameron Rasmussen



COSMOS

## 1. Street Co-Named in Honor of Pamela Palanque-North

Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, State Senator Robert Jackson (not pictured), and Manhattan Community Board 12 (CB12) members joined to honor the life and legacy of former CB12 Chair Pamela Palanque-North with a ceremony on the corner of West 162nd Street and Edgecombe Avenue, co-naming a street to memorialize Palanque-North's countless contributions to the Upper Manhattan community.

## 2. Amend the 13th: A Conversation about Ending Legalized Slavery in the United States

The Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA), with faculty and staff at Columbia University and other organizations and individuals, held a panel discussion to develop strategies that will increase public awareness, fuel public discourse, and build momentum to amend the 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Pictured left to right: Flores A. Forbes (GCA); Kendall Thomas (Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia University); Sheena Wright (United Way of New York City); and Mika'il DeVeaux, Ph.D. (Citizens Against Recidivism). Learn more at <https://gca.columbia.edu/amendthe13th>.

## 3. CCS Nancy Rupp Community Scholarship Recipients

Named after Nancy Rupp, the wife of President Emeritus George Rupp and an exemplary CCS board member, the CCS Nancy Rupp Community Scholarship was designed to help CCS nonprofit professionals with class instruction and training provided by the Columbia Business School. The Scholarship Fund, created in 2002, provided a new avenue of support for the community. Since the first award, CCS has distributed over \$60,000 in scholarships to 25 agency representatives to give them an opportunity to participate (free of charge) in the Developing Leaders Program for Nonprofit Professionals at the Columbia Business School. This year, three candidates were selected to participate: Matthew Bull from Corpus Christi School, Thomas Perry from Cathedral Community Cares, and Chris Pellettieri from Pellettieri Stone Carvers' Academy, seen here with their instructor, Professor Michel Tuan Pham.

## 4. 2018–2019 Beyond the Bars Fellows

The Beyond the Bars Fellowship offers students and community members an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of mass incarceration and social change; and to collaborate with social justice organizers, activists, and academics to plan the annual Beyond the Bars Conference. The 2018–2019 Beyond the Bars Fellows come from many schools across Columbia (Social Work, Teachers College, International and Public Affairs, Public Health, Sociology, and Columbia College); other colleges (CUNY Graduate Center and John Jay College of Criminal Justice); and a variety of community and government organizations (the Brooklyn Bail Fund, the Door, the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, the Social Change Agents Institute, G.I.R.L.S., the New York City Department of Education, and Vocal New York).

## 5. Families Take Part in Community Day Events on Manhattanville Campus

Families and locals from the community joined Manhattanville's Mad Science-themed events on Saturday, April 13. Children learned the science behind slime and its sensory benefits, adults were able to check their blood pressure for free, and movie lovers went back in time with a screening of the 1960s film *The Absent Minded Professor*. These and several other events were free and open to the public. At the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, the Zuckerman Institute held its monthly Saturday Science featuring tools and technology in science for youth to explore. Participants held a real brain, learned about the cells that are inside, created squishy brain cells that light up, and operated a laboratory-grade microscope and virtual reality devices. The Wallach took their event outside to the Small Square in front of the Lenfest Center for the Arts, where families explored working with artist tools to design and decorate tote bags.

## 6. COSMOS Education Labs in Action

COSMOS is the advanced wireless testbed Rutgers, Columbia, and NYU are jointly deploying in West Harlem as part of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research (PAWR) program. As part of the COSMOS education plan, over each summer public school teachers from across NYC work with researchers to develop web-based laboratories/projects to use in their classrooms in the upcoming school year. The immersive educational toolkit is developed by NYU and Columbia Engineering researchers. The program is designed to teach fundamentals of math, physics, and computer science through interactive research experiments in wireless networking. Pictured: Mr. Bianchi's AP Computer Science class at Frederick Douglass Academy engaged in a lesson. Learn more at <https://cosmos-lab.org/>.



# Community Services

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to the local community, Columbia has dedicated a portion of the Manhattanville website to communicate some of the University's commitments for project-related programs and services that are currently available. For a comprehensive listing of programs and services, and participant eligibility, please visit [manhattanville.columbia.edu/community](https://manhattanville.columbia.edu/community).

## Outreach to Disconnected Youth

The Connecting Youth Initiative (CYI) at Columbia University offers resources and supportive services to out-of-school and out-of-work youth ages 16-24 in the local community to help them reengage with educational institutions, obtain a high school equivalency degree, and/or seek training for career readiness and job placement. Through strategic, targeted outreach activities, CYI staff provide case management to local youth and young adults to match them with appropriate service providers and referrals for skills training, internships, work-based learning, and job placement opportunities with community-based organizations and Columbia University. For more information, please call 212-854-4143, or visit <https://gca.columbia.edu/CYI>.

## Columbia Employment Information Center

The Columbia Employment Information Center (CEIC) (the “Center”) serves as the central community-based resource for local residents to apply for open positions at Columbia University. The Center provides a wide range of services to the local community including in-person and online job readiness training programs, one-on-one job-search counseling and assistance, and access to online job opportunities at Columbia.

You are welcome to call our 24-hour hotline at 212-851-1551; it provides general information about the Center, information on Columbia University job opportunities, information on construction activities and information on construction-related job opportunities.

## Course Auditing

Columbia University funds up to 50 courses per year through Columbia's Professional Studies Auditing Program for residents (25 residents from NYCHA Manhattanville Houses and Grant Houses and 25 residents from the local community). The Auditing Program provides adults not currently enrolled in college with the opportunity to attend up to two selected lectures drawn from Columbia University's offerings in the Arts and Sciences during the academic year. For more information about the program, please call 212-854-9666.

## Dental Health Screenings for Senior Citizens

Columbia University offers free dental health screenings for senior citizens throughout Northern Manhattan via the ElderSmile Program. As part of Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, the ElderSmile Program offers free dental screenings and referrals for further dental treatment at senior centers throughout Washington Heights/Inwood and Harlem, including New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents in Manhattanville Houses and General Grant Houses.

## Athletics Clinics

Columbia University's varsity sports programs and coaches of football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, track and field, and tennis sponsor and participate in seasonal sports clinics for local community children in University facilities and throughout Harlem and Washington Heights.

## Housing Legal Assistance

For the period from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2030, Columbia University provides funding for two attorneys at a legal assistance provider acceptable to NYCHPD serving the Manhattanville area, to provide anti-eviction/anti-harassment legal assistance for residents of the Manhattanville area. Funding will not exceed \$4 million through December 31, 2030.

Contact Legal Services NYC directly and ask a representative if you are eligible for the benefit described above. Phone: 212-348-7449; Fax: 212-348-4093. Legal Services NYC can also be found online: [www.legalservicesnyc.org](http://www.legalservicesnyc.org).

## Columbia Wellness Center

Located on the ground floor of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, the Wellness Center provides health resources to area residents. ColumbiaDoctors hosts community-based initiatives that train members of the Harlem community to become health advocates to prevent stroke and promote mental health. The center also provides free cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, health insurance enrollment, weight counseling, and other services.

Please note that the Wellness Center is not a clinical practice. For more information call 212-853-1146, email [wellnesscenter@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:wellnesscenter@cumc.columbia.edu), or visit <https://communitywellness.manhattanville.columbia.edu/>.

## Dental Services for Preschool Children

Columbia University offers free dental care for preschool-age children from the Manhattanville in West Harlem area through the Mobile Dental Center. The Mobile Dental Center is a program of Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, which aims to reduce dental decay and improve the oral health of Northern Manhattan's underserved children, through comprehensive dental treatment and oral health education.

## Scholarships for Lifelong Learners

Columbia University provides scholarships for 50 residents of Manhattanville Houses, Grant Houses, and the local community who are 65 years of age and older to audit up to two courses per year. Administered through Columbia's School of Professional Studies, the Lifelong Learners Program is designed for individuals committed to the principles of lifelong education. For more information about the program, please call 212-854-9666.

## Shuttle Bus Service for the Elderly and Disabled

Columbia University provides a shuttle bus service free of charge to members of the local community who are disabled or who are senior citizens (including their attendants) via the ADA-accessible Intercampus Shuttle. The shuttle bus service complies with ADA specifications to connect the Project Site to subway stations at:

- 96th Street and Broadway
- 116th Street and Broadway (Morningside campus)
- 125th Street and Broadway
- Harlem Hospital Center (135th Street and Lenox Avenue)
- Columbia University Medical Center (168th Street and Broadway)

The shuttle bus service runs on a regular schedule throughout the day on every weekday, except on state and federal public holidays.

Senior citizens and disabled passengers must show their Access-A-Ride, Reduced-Fare MetroCards, or Medicare cards, in order to access the service.

For more information, visit <https://transportation.columbia.edu/>, call 212-854-3382, or email [transportation@columbia.edu](mailto:transportation@columbia.edu).

## Space Provisions for Non-Columbia-Affiliated Local Artists and Cultural Organizations

Columbia University, consistent with current practice, makes good faith efforts to accommodate requests by local artists and cultural organizations not affiliated with Columbia for access to its indoor or outdoor spaces for programming that may include, but is not limited to, information sessions, performances, special events or presentations. Payment for such space will be in accordance with then current University protocols. Columbia University space is generally awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to Columbia and student activities, followed by local community activities.

## Columbia Community Scholars Program

Columbia University offers independent, community-based scholars from Northern Manhattan access to a range of University services and resources not usually afforded to non-affiliated residents. Services and resources shall be provided at no cost to participants and shall include access to all of University libraries — including online access, course auditing privileges, dialogue with scholars in their field of study, and the ability to participate in seminars and social events developed specifically for the group. For more information, visit <https://gca.columbia.edu/communityscholars>, call 212-854-5915, or email [communityaffairs@columbia.edu](mailto:communityaffairs@columbia.edu).

## Undergraduate Scholarships for Aid-Eligible Students From the Local Community

Columbia University has established the Thompson-Muñoz Scholarship Fund to serve up to 40 aid-eligible undergraduate students per year who are admitted to Columbia College and/or the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, with funding made available to meet their fully demonstrated financial need. Eligible students must undergo Columbia's undergraduate admissions process. For more information, contact Columbia's Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 212-854-2522.

# Our Elected Officials and Community Boards

## FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Sen. Charles E. Schumer**  
757 Third Ave., Ste. 17-02  
New York, NY 10017  
Phone: 212-486-4430  
TDD: 212-486-7803  
Fax: 212-486-7693  
<https://schumer.senate.gov>

**Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand**  
780 Third Ave., Ste. 2601  
New York, New York 10017  
Phone: 212-688-6262  
Fax: 212-688-7444  
<https://gillibrand.senate.gov>

**Rep. Jerrold Nadler (District 10)**  
201 Varick St., Ste. 669  
New York, NY 10014  
Phone: 212-367-7350  
Fax: 212-367-7356  
<https://nadler.house.gov>

**Rep. Adriano Espaillat (District 13)**  
Harlem State Office Building  
163 West 125th Street  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-663-3900  
<https://espaillat.house.gov>

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**STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
Phone: 518-474-8390  
Fax: 518-474-1513  
<https://governor.ny.gov>

**State Sen. Brian Benjamin (District 30)**  
163 West 125th Street  
Harlem State Office Bldg., Suite 912  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-222-7315  
<https://nysenate.gov/senators/brian-benjamin>

**State Sen. Robert Jackson (District 31)**  
5030 Broadway  
Suites 701 & 702  
New York, NY 10034  
Phone: 212-544-0173  
<https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/robert-jackson>

**Assembly Member Daniel J. O'Donnell (District 69)**  
245 W. 104th St.  
New York, NY 10025  
Phone: 212-866-3970  
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Daniel-J-O'Donnell>

**Assembly Member Inez E. Dickens (District 70)**  
163 West 125th Street  
Suite 911  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-866-5809  
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Inez-E-Dickens>

**Assembly Member Al Taylor (District 71)**  
2541-55 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.  
New York, NY 10039  
Phone: 212-234-1430  
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Al-Taylor>

**Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa (District 72)**  
210 Sherman Avenue  
Ste A&C  
New York, NY 10034  
Phone: 212-544-2278  
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Carmen-N-De-La-Rosa>

## LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mayor Bill de Blasio**  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-788-3000  
Fax: 212-788-2460  
<https://nyc.gov/mayor>

**Public Advocate Jumaane Williams**  
1 Centre St., 15th Flr.  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-669-7200 (General)  
Phone: 212-669-7250 (Ombudsman)  
Fax: 212-669-4701  
<https://pubadvocate.nyc.gov>

**Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**  
431 West 125th Street  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-531-1609  
<https://mbpo.org>

**Comptroller Scott Stringer**  
1 Centre St.  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: (212) 669-3916  
TTY: 212-669-3450  
Fax: 212-669-2707  
<https://comptroller.nyc.gov>

**City Council Speaker Corey Johnson (District 3)**  
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001  
Phone: 212-564-7757  
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-3>

**City Council Member Helen Rosenthal (District 6)**  
563 Columbus Ave.  
New York, NY 10024  
Phone: 212-873-0282  
Fax: 212-873-0279  
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-6>

**City Council Member Mark Levine (District 7)**  
500 W. 141st St.  
New York, NY 10031  
Phone: 212-928-6814  
Fax: 646-582-1408  
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-7>

**City Council Member Diana Ayala (District 8)**  
105 East 116th Street  
New York NY 10029  
Phone: 212-828-9800  
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-8>

**City Council Member Bill Perkins (District 9)**  
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building  
163 West 125th Street, Room 729  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-678-4505  
Fax: 212-864-4379  
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-9>

**City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10)**  
618 W. 177th St., Ground Flr.  
New York, NY 10033  
Phone: 917-521-2616  
Fax: 917-521-1293  
<https://council.nyc.gov/district-10>

## COMMUNITY BOARDS



**Community Board 7**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 59th Street to 110th Street.

250 West 87th Street  
New York, NY 10024  
Phone: 212-362-4008  
[office@cb7.org](mailto:office@cb7.org)  
Board Chair: Roberta Semer  
District Manager: Penny Ryan  
<https://nyc.gov/html/mancb7>

**Community Board 9**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 110th Street to 155th Street.

16 Old Broadway  
(Between 125th and 126th Streets)  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-864-6200  
[info@cb9m.org](mailto:info@cb9m.org)  
Board Chair: Padmore John  
District Manager: Eutha Prince  
<https://cb9m.org>

**Community Board 10**  
Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 110th Street to 159th Street.

215 West 125th Street, 4th Flr.  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-749-3105  
[mn10cb@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:mn10cb@cb.nyc.gov)  
Board Chair: Cicely Harris  
District Manager: Shatic Mitchell  
<https://nyc.gov/html/mancb10>

**Community Board 11**  
Represents the community between 96th Street and 142nd Street, Fifth Avenue and the East and Harlem Rivers, and includes Randall's and Ward's Islands.

1664 Park Avenue, Ground Floor  
New York, NY 10035  
Phone: 212-831-8929  
[mn11@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:mn11@cb.nyc.gov)  
Board Chair: Nilsa Orama  
District Manager: Angel D. Mescain  
[www.cb11m.org](http://www.cb11m.org)

**Community Board 12**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and the Harlem River from 155th Street to 220th Street.

530 West 166th Street, 6th Flr.  
New York, NY 10032  
Phone: 212-568-8500  
[ebsmith@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:ebsmith@cb.nyc.gov)  
Board Chair: Richard R. Lewis  
District Manager: Ebenezer Smith  
<https://nyc.gov/html/mancb12>

## She Represents You ...

### Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa



Carmen De La Rosa is the Assembly member for the 72nd District of the New York State Assembly. She is a Democrat. The district includes portions of Hamilton Heights, Harlem, Inwood, and Washington Heights in Manhattan. De La Rosa was born in the Dominican Republic and came to New York City with her family at a very young age, where they settled in Northern Manhattan. She attended Mother Cabrini High School before earning her bachelor's degree at Fordham University in the Bronx.

In November 2016, De La Rosa was elected to the State Assembly, becoming the second woman to ever represent the 72nd Assembly District. De La Rosa currently serves on the committees on Banks; Correction; Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions; Housing; and Mental Health; and she chairs the Subcommittee on Infrastructure. She is a member of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus, the Legislative Women's Caucus, and the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force. De La Rosa also serves as a member of a special task force convened with the purpose of creating legislation combating sexual harassment for New York State.

De La Rosa is passionate about using government as a tool for social change and as a vehicle to empower and support communities. A longtime resident of Inwood, De La Rosa resides on the same street where she was raised, with her husband, Jose, and daughter, Mia. She looks forward to continuing to serve and to bringing about progressive changes in the New York State Legislature for the community she so deeply loves and genuinely cares about.



# Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Bashar Makhay



Members of SBDC staff and advisers

The Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center (CHSBDC) has been part of the community of Upper Manhattan since 2009. Funded partially by the United States Small Business Administration, the CHSBDC is one of 900 centers across the country that offer free business advice and training provided by qualified small business professionals to existing and future entrepreneurs. The CHSBDC was first launched by Jack McGourty, then vice dean at The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science and now director of Community and Global Entrepreneurship at the Columbia Business School, where the CHSBDC now calls home. In 2012, the CHSBDC hired its current director, Kaaryn Simmons. While the center was mandated to provide workshops and one-on-one counseling, Simmons strategically transitioned

the CHSBDC to offering more programs and leveraging its relationship with the Columbia Business School by modeling many of the offerings on the top-rated Master of Business Administration Program. Under Simmons’s leadership the CHSBDC expanded to offer the Harlem Local Vendor Program (HLVP), NYC SBDC Pitch Workshop and Series Competition, Columbia Community Business Program (CCBP), and the Brand Story Workshop Series and Competition. Since their start in 2009, the expert advisers of the Columbia-Harlem SBDC have worked directly with 2,382 businesses, helping them to invest \$43,749,684 in the area’s economy, and to create or save 2,459 jobs. To celebrate these 10 years of accomplishments, the CHSBDC kicked off a series of events it plans to hold throughout 2019 with a Harlem Local Vendors Buyers Fair in January and continues to have events monthly, including a formal gala in the summer. Looking ahead, the SBDC will be moving its offices to Columbia Business School’s new home in Manhattanville. In preparation for the move—and as more programming and events take place in Manhattanville—the CHSBDC looks to make sure that local businesses, in particular small businesses, are given opportunities on the new campus. Furthermore they continue to provide resources and support to local businesses on the 12th Avenue corridor. Beyond New York, the CHSBDC is now working internationally with entrepreneurship centers in different countries looking to support local and regional economic development through programs similar to the SBDC. Most recently CHSBDC worked with the Promipyme centers of San Marcos and Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. The CHSBDC is committed to supporting the economic sustainability of New Yorkers—one business at a time—and we look forward to seeing the success the next 10 years will bring to the SBDC and the local area.

- The HLVP provides a platform for local Harlem vendors seeking professional guidance regarding best practices and guidelines for vendor suppliers. It has assisted with securing supplier partnerships with retail and institutional partners including Whole Foods Market, Macy’s, and Columbia University Dining.
- The Pitch Workshop Series and Competition is for clients of the SBDC with deep knowledge of their business looking to effectively communicate their business to family and friends, potential customers, or investors.
- The CCBP is an executive education program for small business owners aligned with the core curriculum of the MBA program at Columbia Business School. Participants receive one-on-one business counseling, entrepreneurial education, and professionally facilitated peer learning.
- The Brand Story Workshop Series and Competition is a program for entrepreneurs to learn how to use storytelling techniques and technical skills to communicate their value proposition through a brand video.

Connect with the Office of Government and Community Affairs Online!  <https://gca.columbia.edu/>  @ColumbiaGCA  @ColumbiaGCA  @ColumbiaGCA

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